

Application No. 09/886,266
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated February 10, 2005
May 10, 2005

REMARKS

By this amendment, the title and claim 1 have been amended. Claims 5-15 were previously withdrawn. Currently, claims 1-15 are currently pending in the application with claims 1-4 being drawn to the elected invention.

The indication that claims 2-4 are allowed is noted with appreciation.

The title was objected to by the Examiner. The title has been amended to be "Solid State Imaging Device Having Timing Signal Generation Circuit and Clamping Circuit". It is respectfully requested that the Examiner approve this title or suggest a new title that is acceptable.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 4-291576). This rejection is respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to claim 1 and the remarks below.

The present invention relates to a solid state imaging device having a timing signal generation circuit and a clamping circuit. A main object of the present invention is to improve the problems when the accumulation field number is large as described in detail in the specification on page 6, line 18 to

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page 8, line 23. The enable signal of the present invention shows a timing at which an output from the solid state imaging elements stops.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the clamping means which, along with feeding back said difference value, "matches a signal level of said optical black section outputted from said solid state imaging element to a constant value by maintaining an output of said amplifier means while the enable signal outputted from said timing signal generation circuit is being obtained".

This amendment shows that the output value of the amplifier means (amplifier 11 of Fig. 9) is maintained while the enable signal is obtained.

Suzuki et al. disclose a clamping circuit that receives a signal CP1 and CBLK. The signal CP1, which shows optical black, is the same as OBCP in the first embodiment of the present invention. The signal CBLK of Suzuki et al. represents a blanking signal, and this signal is not same as the enable signal of the present invention.

Therefore, in view of foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and an action

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to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding the amendments or these remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 10, 2005

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Randolph A. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

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